

November 30, 2005
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting

Bob Warren opened the meeting with introductions.

NEW BUSINESS FROM MDT

1. **CBC, CTS Tables 701-8 and 701-10.** MDT is considering changes to the No. 200 sieve and would like some comments from MCA before pursuing this change.
2. **Grade S Forum.** The grade S forum will be held again this year to discuss any issues, possibly after the February letting.
3. **Ride Specification.** MDT is developing a new ride specification and will attempt to have a draft version ready for the January meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Sulfate Soundness.** Additional changes will be made to the sulfate soundness specification. The Micro-Deval test looks very promising, it correlates well with good aggregates, more testing is needed for poor aggregates. MCA asked that the test not be switched “cold turkey” but phased in with more discussion.
2. **Noxious Weeds.** MDT anticipates several refinements to this specification as we get experience with it. Look for minor changes on the Q&A site.
3. **Pulverization.** MCA presented a proposal for a specification allowing rotomilled material from the PTW to be used with the EPM’s approval. This is currently being done on some projects. MDT agrees there are some benefits such as less dust, recycling of existing material etc. but the use needs to be looked at and may not be automatic in every case. A permeability study is being conducted at MSU and so far this does not seem to be an issue. MDT will work on this over the winter.
4. **QPL.** The QPL has received very few inquiries. More suppliers will be looking at the QPL over the winter when work slows down.
5. **Bid Express.** Paper bids have priority over electronic if both are submitted, but MDT still plans to go to electronic priority as the Contractors gain experience and trust. MDT received 7 electronic bids last month with no problems encountered. MCA reported one problem with being unable to access the program. MDT asked that Contractor to send them the details and Contract Plans will investigate.
6. **Letting Schedule.** The program still looks very healthy through March. Several projects were bumped out of the January letting and February will probably be the same.
7. **Traffic Control.** Work zone awareness week is in April. FHWA advised lump sum is still allowed under the present rules and MDT stated lump sum is still open for discussion. MDT is looking at using radar/speed limit/message signs in some areas. Research is not promising but it is worth trying.

8. Erosion Control. The next erosion control committee will be after the 2006 construction season. Proposals for the erosion control committee may be submitted at any time. The MCA representative is Pat Bibeau.

9. Utility Task Force. The utility committee will meet (without utility companies) today at 2:00 p.m. at MDT to develop proposals to bring to the utility companies.

10. Dates for Chip Seal. MCA thought the new dates were an improvement and asked if the new language would be ready in time for the December letting. MDT thought that possibly could be done on the Question and Answer forum.

11. Fuel Adjustment. MCA will continue to work on a proposal for revising the adjustment. MCA may prefer a cents per gallon change to the current 20 %. MCA preferred to have the notification of participation at the Pre-con and not Notice to Proceed. MDT stated the NTP date is uniform and is important contractually.

12. Subcontractor definition. MDT will develop a list. MCA asked to be allowed to comment prior to the list being utilized.

13. Mag Chloride – Prime. It appears that there are numerous issues involved with the problems that have occurred with no pattern or consistency. Research will continue in this area and MDT plans to test various products and methods.

NEW BUSINESS FROM MCA

1. Final Payments. MCA asked if there was anything MDT could do to assist a prime contractor in recovering an overpayment made to a subcontractor. The Prime is responsible for recovering the money, not MDT. MDT is not aware of any leverage they would have in this regard.

2. Estimate Range. MCA asked if Contract Plans would give the estimated contract amount (within a range) for the projects as was done in the past. Bonding, Insurance, and Subcontractors were all dependant on that figure. MDT will look into this.

The next meeting will be **January 25, 2006**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the **MCA Office**.

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